

**Jon Godfread, Vice President of Government Affairs for
The Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce**

Thanks for the opportunity to speak with you. My name is Jon Godfread, and I'm the Vice President of Government Affairs for The Greater North Dakota Chamber. The Greater North Dakota Chamber is a business association that advocates for nearly 1,100 North Dakota businesses of all sizes and industries. The organization champions laws and regulations to benefit businesses in an effort to make North Dakota the most business-friendly state in the country.

The Chamber strongly supports the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline and urges the North Dakota Public Service Commission to approve this project at its' earliest convenience.

Pipeline infrastructure projects, like the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline, have created jobs not only in the energy industry, but in many service industries that support energy development in North Dakota. The Dakota Access Pipeline is a \$3.7 billion investment that will create 8,000 to 12,000 well-paying jobs during construction. The influx of workers will pay sales tax and bring money to our state's economy and businesses through everyday purchases.

The Dakota Access Pipeline will bring many significant economic benefits to the Midwest. One: hundreds of valuable construction jobs. Two: millions of dollars in revenue for local retailers; restaurants; and material, equipment and hospitality businesses. And three: increased property tax revenue in each county crossed by the project.

But without this pipeline-- refineries will be forced to rely on higher-priced crude and transportation alternatives (such as truck or rail); residents and consumers will see price increases, rail congestion and strain on roads and highways; and the delays in permitting for pipelines such as Dakota Access will cost Midwest farmers, and in fact, has already cost them millions of dollars because of rail delays. Tariffs on grain railcars have increased from \$50 to nearly \$1,400 per car.

The real benefit, however, is the pipeline's ability to help meet the region's critical and changing energy demands. Dakota Access will serve as a long-term link, transporting supply from the Bakken region to market efficiently and safely, at a low cost to the producer, which in turn will keep costs low for the consumers. This is vital to our state's ability to continue to capitalize on our vast crude resources in a manner that benefits both our local economy and the nation as a whole.

We agree with the governor: more pipeline capacity is needed, and it's needed now.

I thank you for your time.



